



The  
**THOREAU SOCIETY**  
BULLETIN

BULLETIN 165  
Fall 1983  
US ISSN 0040-6406

WELCOME THOREAU LYCEUM MEMBERS!

With the merger of the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Lyceum now official, all members of the Thoreau Lyceum are now members of the Thoreau Society and with this issue will start receiving this bulletin regularly four times a year. Conversely, members of the Thoreau Society will soon start receiving the Lyceum's CONCORD SAUNTERER.

JIMMY CARTER ON THOREAU

WH



JIMMY CARTER

9-2-83

To Walter Harding

Since I was a child, I have enjoyed Thoreau's works, learned from him, & shared his humor & insight with others. His thoughts about solitude, nature, politics, art & the higher aspirations of the human spirit have been very important to me.

Jimmy Carter

When I saw in the NEW YORK TIMES for July 14, 1983, a photograph of President Jimmy

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Ann Zwinger, president; Marian Wheeler, vice-president; Mary Anderson, treasurer; Walter Harding, secretary. Address communications to the secretary at State University College, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. Dues (\$10 a year; \$100 life membership) should be sent to the Thoreau Society 156 Belknap Street, Concord, Mass. 01742.

Carter sitting on the porch of his new log cabin in Ellijay, Georgia, reading a copy of WALDEN, I wrote him saying that I had noticed he frequently quoted Thoreau in his speeches, and asked if he had a particular interest in Thoreau. His kind reply is printed above.

Aug. 9, 1860



THOREAU'S DARK LADY WAS PROBABLY A DARLING  
by Donald Murray & Susan Denault

Since the publication of William Howarth's THOREAU IN THE MOUNTAINS (1), we know a good deal more than formerly about the Berkshire excursions which provided some of the materials for A WEEK. But some mystery still surrounds one of the episodes, Thoreau's encounter with the attractive dark lady on Mt. Greylock. Stephen Adams' interesting article on her mythic meaning ["Looking for Thoreau's Dark Lady," TSB 161] shows that her significance to Thoreau goes far beyond her identity as a citizen of Massachusetts. But we would still like to know her name. Perhaps we may now, with some confidence, make a guess.

It will be recalled that Thoreau is giving an account of a walking trip he made in the summer of 1844, when he hiked from Greenfield up the valley of the Deerfield River to the Hoosac Range, spent the night with the "uncivil man" Rice, and in the morning descended into North Adams and then climbed Mt. Greylock.

The mountainside is forested now, but then there were farms. Proceeding up the valley of Notch Brook, Thoreau stopped at "the last house but one" and chatted with the "frank and hospitable young woman" who was mistress of the place, a house "well kept and nobly placed." (2)

Howarth writes, "But the exact site seems as ambiguous as the young woman Thoreau met. . . . Today not a trace of her home remains; only the forest, the wind, and sound of running water." [70-71]

Thoreau's feelings about the young woman may remain ambiguous, but concerning the site and her identity there are some distinct probabilities.

To begin with, an earlier note by D. Murray ["Thoreau's Dark Lady of A WEEK--Who Was She? TSB 158] can now be amplified and corrected. The row of maples referred to in that note were probably on the property of Arnold Walden, who is named on a map of 1858. [3] The cemetery was the half-acre

set aside by Jeremiah Wilbur as a "burying ground" next to his daughter Delila's lots. [4]

The cellar hole mentioned in Murray's note very likely belonged to the farm of Preserved Eddy, who is on the 1840 census and whose farm is also indicated on the map of 1858. He had a wife and four children. The home of this family, as far as can be determined at this time [5], was the last house but one on the way up the valley.

The clearing at the top of the valley, mentioned in Murray's earlier note, was not the Wilbur Pasture, but a clearing made at a later date. The Wilbur Pasture was down between Mt. Prospect and Mt. Williams, at an elevation of about 2300 ft. [6]

The last house on the way up the valley, the house from which Thoreau took off up the mountain in spite of the advice of the farmer--was the home of Smith Wilbur. It is shown on the 1858 map, and Wilbur's name appears on the census of 1840. Topographic maps show it to be at an elevation of about 1450 ft.

Thoreau apparently never went back to the nobly placed house. There is little doubt, though, that it was Eddy's, as Denault has said elsewhere. [7] A ground plan (unpublished), based on her examination of the foundations on the site, shows a main structure, located about 5' from the present Bel-lows Pipe Trail, that is 34' deep, 46' on one side and 30' on the other. There were two outbuildings, probably barns, one 32' by 40' and the other 36' by 30'. The value of the whole place according to the U.S. census of 1850, was \$4600. The house was probably well built as well as well kept: a house in Adams reportedly hauled down from the Notch a century ago still stands--sturdy, handsome, and serviceable. [8]

The mistress of the Eddy home was Rebecca Darling Eddy, born July 11, 1808, to David and Abigail Hodge Darling, of Clarksburg, Mass. She married Preserved Eddy in North Adams March 27, 1823, and by 1844, when Thoreau made his trip, she was the mother of four children: a son David, nine years old (who was to inherit the property, an infant James, and two older daughters. [9] When Thoreau climbed the mountain she was 38, he was 27.

She was a farmer's wife, and no doubt a busy one, with four children and a house to take care of. But Thoreau does not remark on her responsibilities. (One recalls, in contrast, that guardian of property farmer Hollowell's wife, in Chapter II of WALDEN, and Thoreau's cynical remark, "--every man has such a wife--".) Thoreau sees neither her children nor her chores.

Instead, he looks at her and sees her as a kind of Lorelei maiden in a dishabille, busily and unconcernedly combing her long black hair while she talked, giving her head the necessary toss with each sweep of the comb, with lively, sparkling eyes. . . [10]

Among all the little portraits that we have of women in Thoreau's works--except perhaps the idealized and far from graphic picture

of Ellen Sewall, [11], a girl whom he had wooed shortly before this--the Greylock lady is the only one with charm. That charm is not without a sexual quality. As Richard Bridgman says, in his recent book DARK THOREAU, she "may be the only sensual woman ever to appear in his work." [12]

She reminded him of one of his cousins, he says. Which cousin is another question that cannot be answered with certainty, for pictures and even names--of Thoreau's cousins are hard to come by. But there is one good possibility. This is Rebecca Thatcher, a Bangor cousin whom Thoreau met in 1838 when he went to Maine looking for a teaching job. She was the wife of George A. Thatcher, who accompanied Thoreau on his 1846 and 1853 Maine excursions. A painting in the possession of the Bangor Historical Society, made "a few years before Thoreau's first Maine trip in 1846," shows this Rebecca (odd, that she should have the same name as Mrs. Eddy!) to have been dark and beautiful. [13] One can easily imagine that her image remained in the mind of the young job-hunter.

Who was the lady of Greylock? Whatever her name, she was dark, Thoreau tells us, and in this feature she resembled his mother, Ellen Sewall, Rebecca Thatcher, Lucy Jackson Brown, Lidian Emerson, and even the unfortunate Sophia Foord. [14] She was vivacious and intelligent, we learn from his description, and this makes her like his mother and the admired Aunt Mary Moody Emerson. [15] She was probably also older than he, like most of his female friends subsequent to the Ellen Sewall and Mary Russell attractions. [16]

And she was probably a Darling.

1. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982.

2. A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS, ed. Carl F. Hovde et al (Princeton Univ. Press, 1980), p p. 182-183.

3. MAP OF THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS (New York: H.F. Walling, 1858). In the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Mass. See also Population Schedule of the 6th Census of the United States, 1840.

4. Jeremiah Wilbur's estate papers, Docket #3068, Berkshire County Probate Office, Pittsfield, Mass.

5. The authors of this note have discussed the fact that their conclusions are still only "probable."

Murray: "It looks as if the maps and deeds have told us all they're going to tell. How can we find out more about the Eddys, and about who may have lived near them?"

Denault (who has done archaeology on the mountain): "We try to get permission, then work in the field."

Murray (recoiling at the prospect of labor, but remembering Roland Robbins' success at the Thoreau cabin site):

"You mean--dig?"

Denault: "I mean dig."

6. Susan Denault, "The Jeremiah Wilbur Homestead," unpublished paper written at North Adams State College, for Professor

Albert Bartovics, Dec., 1980, p.4.

7. See Richard Nunley, "Thoreau's Night on Greylock," THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE, July 7, 1982.

8. The home of Steward Meiklejohn, 23 West Road, Adams. Mr. Meiklejohn says he has not been able to find out who originally owned the house or when it was moved.

9. Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, THE EDDY FAMILY IN AMERICA: A GENEALOGY (Boston: Eddy Family Association, 1930), 244.

10. A WEEK, p. 182

11. A WEEK, pp. 46-48.

12. (Lincoln: Univ. of Neb. Press, 1982), p.43.

13. Milton Meltzer and Walter Harding, A THOREAU PROFILE (New York: Crowell, 1962), p.182.

14. Sanborn writes of someone describing Cynthia Thoreau as, in her youth, "a handsome dark-eyed girl." F.B.Sanborn, THE LIFE OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU (Boston: Houghton, 1917), p. 20. See also Henry Seidel Canby, THOREAU (Boston: Houghton, 1939), p.16.

Photographs of Ellen Sewall, Lucy Brown, and Lidian Emerson are reproduced in PROFILE, pp.60,58. A student of Foord's recalled that she was a "dark-skinned, pudgy-featured woman." Walter Harding, "Thoreau's Feminine Foe," PMLA, 69 (1954), 114. A poem by Thoreau said to be about Mary Russell, describes her as having a "dark eyelash." PROFILE, p.61.

15. Cynthia Thoreau was known to be vivacious and a talker. Harding says, "She was noted for speaking her mind frankly." THE DAYS OF HENRY THOREAU (New York:Knopf,1965), p.9. Thoreau uses the same word in describing the Greylock lady: she was "frank and hospitable." For Thoreau's admiring portrait of the "witty and vivacious" Aunt Mary, see THE JOURNAL OF HENRY D. THOREAU, edited by Torrey & Allen (Boston: Houghton, 1906), III, 113-114 (1851). It is in the same year that he records his distaste for the chattering pretty girls at a party (JOURNAL, III, 115-116). But one can see that what he really dislikes is empty-headedness and that the vivid simile "lively and loquacious as a chickadee" is actually appreciative.

16. See Harding's DAYS: on Lucy, p. 105; Lidian, p. 153; Foord, p. 225.

an old man "who was disposed to strive after perfection by building a perfect dock and rowboat--instead of a staff. A chief link in the connection between the similar characters is the degree to which each manages to work himself out of the normal framework of time.

Thoreau's description of his furniture set out-of-doors in the "Sounds" chapter undergoes a radical transformation in SO THE WIND WON'T BLOW IT ALL AWAY. A husband and wife often come to Brautigan's fictional pond where the youthful narrator fishes, and they bring all their living room furniture along in their pick-up truck--which they unload and set up before starting to fish themselves.

Brautigan's practice of using Thoreau's imagery in his own strange ways may be disturbing to readers who reserve for WALDEN a very special place in their minds and hearts. But if those who are disturbed by Brautigan's piracy will closely examine Thoreau's own use of the literature of the past, they will find a striking similarity of method--if not result.

If nothing more, Brautigan's newest novel serves to remind us that Thoreau's prose still has the power to stir the imagination of a modern writer who is working a very different vein of ore with very familiar tools.

Pennsylvania State University.



Aug. 9, 1860

#### THOREAU SOCIETY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ann Zwinger, president of the society, announces the following committee appointments:

RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE BOARD: Edmund Schofield.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE (ad hoc): Dana McLean Greeley, chairman; William Bailey, Thomas Blanding, Malcolm Ferguson, Walter Harding, Anne McGrath (ex officio), Marcia Moss (ex officio), Edmund Schofield, Jacqueline Tidman.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (standing): John Clymer, chairman, will appoint own board.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE (standing): Mary Anderson, treasurer; John Clymer, Walter Harding, Mary McClintock, Frederick McGill.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (ad hoc): Ester Almgren, Sylvia Klinck, Jason Korell.

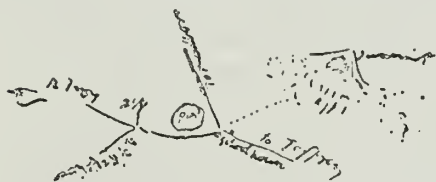
NOMINATING. Linda Henning, Chairman; Ester Almgren, Mary Fenn, Walter Harding, John McAleer, Mrs. Robert Moore, Fritz Oehlschlaeger.

PROGRAM. Marian Wheeler, Chiarmn, will appoint own committee.

PUBLICATIONS (standing): Joel Myerson, chairman; Thomas Blanding (ex officio), Malcolm Ferguson, Walter Harding (ex officio), John McAleer, Anne McGrath, Paul Williams.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jason Korell.

The following are elected or ex officio



Aug. 2, 1860

#### WALDEN REWORKED by Charles Hackenberry

Richard Brautigan's recent novel, SO THE WIND WON'T BLOW IT ALL AWAY, borrows frequently from WALDEN to help paint a quiet, muted portrait of a young boy who grows up during World War II. Readers of Thoreau's masterpiece will recognize several images drawn directly from WALDEN and infused into the modern work.

The artist of the city of Kuru from the "Conclusion" becomes, in Brautigan's novel,



members of the Board of the Society: Raymond Adams, Esther Almgren, Mrs. Thomas Altshuler, Mrs. William Anderson, William M. Bailey, Thomas Blanding, Carl Bode, Albert Bussewitz, Ralph Chapman, John Clymer, R.L. Cook, Sharon L. Crawford, Malcolm Ferguson, Wendell Glick, Dana McLean Greeley, Mrs. Bigelow Green, Walter Harding, Linda Henning, Henry Beetle Hough, William Howarth, Leonard Kleinfeld, Mrs. Frederick C. Klinck, Jason Korell, Jane Langton, Lewis Leary, Patience Hosmer MacPherson, John McAleer, Mrs. Frank McClintock, Frederick T. McGill Jr., Mrs. Thomas McGrath, Michael Meyer, Mrs. Robert L. Moore, Marcia Moss, Robert Needham, Fritz Oehlschlaeger, Paul Oehser, G. Russell Ready, Roland Wells Robbins, Edmund A. Schofield, J. Lyndon Shanley, W. Stephen Thomas, H.H. Uhlig, Frederick Wagner, Eugene Walker, Mrs. Russell Wheeler, Paul Williams, and Ann H. Zwinger.



Aug. 22, 1860

#### NOTES AND QUERIES

The late Arthur Volkman of Wilmington, Del. bequeathed the Thoreau Society the sum of three hundred dollars.

The annual winter meeting of the Thoreau Society, held in conjunction with the Modern Language Association, will be on Wednesday December 28, 1983 at 8:30 a.m. in Nassau A at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. Herbert Cahoon will speak on Thoreau treasures in the Morgan Library. Non-MLA members wishing to attend need only request a special admission ticket at the MLA desk at the hotel.

The editorial office of the Princeton Edition of THE WRITINGS OF HENRY D. THOREAU has moved to the West Coast and should be addressed at the English Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106. Princeton University Press will however continue to publish the edition.

The Walden Pond State Reservation conducted a hidden treasure hunt through the summer issues of the CONCORD JOURNAL. Winner was Ray Angelo.

The Cape Cod Writers' Conference (Box 111, West Hyannisport, Mass. 02672) is selling a "Thoreau's Cape Cod" glass cup plate for \$6.00 (plus \$1.00 for mailing).

Dr. Richard Hutson asks where in Thoreau's writings did Loren Eiseley find the quotation "There has been nothing but the sun and the eye since the beginning"?

Dorothy Kamen-Kaye recently received a card with this quotation attributed to Thoreau: "Methinks all things/have traveled since you shined/but only time and cloud/have moved again/foul weather shall not change my mind/but in the shade I will believe/what in the sun I loved" and asks its source.

Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges made a special point of visiting both Walden Pond and the cabin replica at the Thoreau Lyceum when he was in Concord this past April.

The Henry David Restaurant which occupies Cynthia Thoreau's birthplace in Keene, N.H. now sports a statue of Thoreau carved from wood by James Pritchard.

We understand from Parade Magazine for

June 13, 1982 that Senator John Glenn of Ohio calls his private plane "my Walden Pond."

When the Walden Pond State Reservation sponsored a 6:30 a.m. sunrise walk in celebration of Thoreau's birthday on July 12, 1983, more than two hundred people turned out.

The Concord Antiquarian Society is currently (until Nov. 28) exhibiting a number of Thoreau treasures from the Concord Free Public Library including the copy of WALDEN he gave to Emerson.

When the BOSTON GLOBE on July 13, 1963 listed fifty "overrated" things in the Boston area, Walden Pond was #17 on the list.

A drawing of the door latch from Thoreau's birthplace appears in the NEW YORKER for March 28, 1983 (p. 31).

The NEW YORKER for Sept. 27, 1982 points out that though Thoreau knew Louis Agassiz well, he was apparently not familiar with Agassiz's glaciation theory and so was not aware that Walden Pond was glaciated.

Wallace Stevens' copy of WALDEN is now in the Huntington Library in San Marino, Ca.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES of March 7, 1983, Petra Kelly, leader of the anti-nuclear party in the West German parliament is an ardent admirer of Thoreau.

Hallmark Cards has recently issued a card saying, "Happy Birthday to someone who marches to the pound of a distant plumber."

Boston now has a "Thoreau Path" winding near the Charles River.

THE PAPERS OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, the designer of Central Park, states that Olmsted did some editing of Thoreau's CAPE COD when he worked for PUTNAM'S MAGAZINE. (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1977, I, 17 & II, 21.

The first issue of SNAPSHOT MAGAZINE issued in Hartford this summer has a full page of Thoreau and Walden photos.

Commissioner of Track and Field for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Committee will be Henry David Thoreau, Concord Henry's distant California cousin.

A recent pamphlet on financial aid at Harvard, AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE, points out that Thoreau received financial aid when he was a student at Harvard.

COLLECTORS' CORNER: Rulon Miller Books of Bristol, R.I. is offering a copy of the first edition of Thoreau's WEEK with corrections in Thoreau's handwriting for \$2500.

E.K. Jánardhan (R. Mandir, P.O. Edathara, Palghat, Kerala, India 678611) would be interested in corresponding with any American Thoreauvian who is particularly interested in Thoreau's fondness for Oriental literature.

According to the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE of Northampton, Mass., for Feb. 22, 1983, even Walden Pond is threatened by acid rain.

A silk screen print by Candace Kelly using Thoreau's "I was determined to know beans" as its theme is being sold in some gift shops.

Welch Foods, which has recently moved its headquarters to Concord, has issued a cartoonbook history of Concord featuring a drawing of Thoreau in jail.

JOHN DOWNES, "ALMANACK-MAKER," AND THE UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF THEOPHILUS BROWN by Edmund Schofield

For years, Thoreauvians have wondered whether any unpublished letters of Theophilus ("Theo") Brown, the "learned tailor of Worcester, Massachusetts, and--along with H.G.O.Blake--one of Thoreau's closest friends, might have survived, squirreled away, perhaps, in some attic or wall in Worcester. Recently, thanks to a timely tip from Walter Harding, I acquired from George S. MacManus Company of Philadelphia a manuscript letter from Brown's widow, Sarah Ann ("Sarah Theo.") Brown, to an unidentified "friend" that answers the question. Along with the letter, which MacManus sold together with a copy of the third edition of LETTERS OF THEO. BROWN (Worcester, 1898; MacManus Catalog 272, September 1982, Item 358), came four leaves of the kind of doggerel poetry for which Theo. was renowned, as well as some miscellaneous notes all clipped from a small pocket notebook of his and all in his hand. Thoreau is not mentioned in either the letter or the notes.

Mrs. Brown probably wrote her letter, which is dated only "March 25," in 1899, in response to a request for manuscript letters of Theo.'s, a request occasioned no doubt by the recent publication of the third and enlarged edition of Theo.'s LETTERS. (Theo. died in 1879, and the first edition of his LETTERS was published as a memorial to him sometime not long thereafter.) I suspect that Mrs. Brown's correspondent was a relative or friend of John Downes (1799 to 1882), who had left Worcester for Philadelphia in 1842 to work on the United States Almanac. Fast friends, Theo. and Downes explored the countryside around Worcester during the three or so years Downes lived in the city. Many years later, Theo. confessed to Downes, "My acquaintance with you, marks a boundary line between two of my worlds; you taught me to walk and introduced me to nature, and I saw her through your eyes awhile. Then Emerson took possession of me, then Thoreau, and I have lived along the greater part of my life a sort of parasite on these men (Brown, LETTERS, 3rd ed., p.74). The two men corresponded between Worcester and Philadelphia for thirty or thirty-five years (see Brown's LETTERS), in which letters to a "J.D." span the years from 1847 to 1878). Downes obviously played an important role in Theo. Brown's life, preparing the ground for Brown's lifelong interest in walking and natural history, helping to set the stage for Brown's friendship with Thoreau, a friendship that gave Thoreau much pleasure.

In 1851, Thoreau met Downes in Boston, having travelled from Worcester the day before (JOURNAL II:224), and in 1856 was present in Worcester when Mrs. Brown read "a letter from John Downes in Philadelphia, in which he remembers his early youth in Shrewsbury and the pout accompanied by her young (JOURNAL VII:378). Perhaps there are some Theo. Brown letters in or near

Philadelphia to this day, though it appears Downes returned all he had when Theo. died. It might be worth determining MacManus's source of the material, since MacManus is located in Philadelphia.

Alas, Mrs. Brown's letter seems to dash any hopes that a cache of unpublished letters by Theo. Brown will some day turn up, though scattered individual letters could always come to light, of course. In the second paragraph of her letter, she states: "I have not a single manuscript letter of Theo's except one announcing our engagement, an ancient document. Alice [their daughter] has none. All that did not go into the book were destroyed. They were written in early youth--and I know Theo. would want they should be destroyed." Instead of a letter, she sent the four leaves clipped from Theo.'s pocket notebook. Since we know that Thoreau always communicated with Brown through Blake, it is very unlikely there were any Brown letters to Thoreau among those destroyed--a conclusion bolstered by the fact that Brown first met Thoreau in 1849, when Brown was in his late forties, not his "early youth." Also, while Thoreau did know Downes slightly, there is little likelihood that any letters from Thoreau to Downes exist--or ever existed--because there are no such letters in the Worcester Historical Museum, which received Downes's library and (apparently) personal papers from Downes's widow in 1885. (The museum has at least two manuscript items that almost certainly came with the Downes materials.)

The Theo. Brown letter and notes are now the property of the Worcester Historical Museum (39 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609, acquisitions 1982.128.1 and 1982.128.3).



Aug. 9, 1860

#### NOTES AND QUERIES (Cont.)

Ray Borst has sent us photographs of two stones in Paris at Cimetiere du Pere-Lachaise that bear the name Thoreau, quite possibly very distant relatives of H.D.T.

Thoreau's name is chiseled into the facade of the old Boston Public Library (on the Boylston Street side) along with Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, and G.W.Curtis.

SAM THE PLUMBER was very upset one night when he heard screams coming from his vegetable garden. The next evening he investigated and found that the noise was coming from the section where he planted his beets. First thing in the morning he asked the local horticulturist to come and listen to his veggies.

When the specialist arrived, he found the house dark and assumed that Sam was not home. He went back to the garden anyway, got out his stethoscope and started to listen. Suddenly, a man demanded, "What are you doing in my garden?"

"Aren't you Sam the Plumber who called me this afternoon?"

"No. I'm Johnson the Plumber. Sam lives on the next block."

"Gosh," said the plant expert, "I've been listening to the beets of a different plumber."

--READERS DIGEST  
June, 1982.

—Contributed by Dan Knight



# ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY W.H.

[We are particularly indebted to Roland de Miller for the many French items listed here. Note that most of the books listed can be ordered from the Thoreau Lyceum.]

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We are indebted to the following for information sent in to the editor: J. Armstrong, R. Borst, A. Bula, C. Burley, J. Butkis, M. Detterline, T. Edic, M. Ferguson, L. Files, F. Flack, R. Galvin, R. Ganley, C. Harding, M. Hughes, D. Jeffrey, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, A. Kovar, A. McGrath, W. McInnes, A. Seaburg, M. Shanks, and F. Shuffelton. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.

Aug. 9, 1860

